

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for sharpening an elongated object so as to obtain a selected profile on one end of the elongated object, said elongated object having a uniform cross section along an object axis, said apparatus comprising:
  - a housing defining a recess having an opening and having a pair of opposed walls,
  - a guide member pivotably mounted in said housing recess about a pivoting axis, said guide member defining a passage therethrough, said passage being shaped and dimensioned to receive the elongated object and to guide the object for longitudinal motion along the object axis between said opposed walls when manually actuated by a user,
  - at least one blade having a cutting edge and disposed on at least one of said opposed walls with the cutting edge extending into the recess at an angle to said object axis,
  - whereby the elongated object ~~can~~may be slid through the passage of the guide member toward the cutting edge of the blade while the elongated object is also being used to pivot said guide member so as to move~~guide so as to move~~ the end of the elongated object past the cutting edge of the blade, whereby material is removed from the elongated object to obtain said selected profile.
2. (Currently Amended) The sharpening apparatus~~combination~~ according to claim 1, wherein a blade is disposed on each of said opposed walls, each of said blades being disposed with its cutting edge facing in the opposite direction from the cutting edge of the other blade, whereby material is removed from one side of the elongated object as it is pivoted in one direction and removed from the other side of the object as it is pivoted in the opposite direction.
3. (Currently Amended) The sharpening apparatus~~combination~~ according to claim 1, wherein the passage in said guide member has a cruciform cross-section adapted to accept a carpenter's pencil in either of two rotated positions, wherein the material ~~can~~may be removed from the elongated object in either of the two rotated positions about said object axis.
4. (Currently Amended) The sharpening apparatus~~combination~~ according to claim 1, wherein the housing is made up of two identical joining halves, each

including a respective one of said opposed walls and wherein said pair of opposed walls are convergent toward one another.

5. (Currently Amended) The sharpening apparatus~~combination~~ according to claim 4, wherein each of said opposed walls defines a blade opening therethrough, and wherein a blade is disposed on each of said opposed walls with its cutting edge extending through a respective blade opening, each of said blades being disposed with its cutting edge facing in the opposite direction from the cutting edge of the other blade, whereby material is removed from one side of the elongated object as it is pivoted in one direction and removed from the other side of the object as it is pivoted in the opposite direction.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for sharpening an elongated object so as to obtain a selected profile on one end of the elongated object, said elongated object having a uniform cross section along an object axis, said apparatus comprising:

a housing defining a recess having an opening and having a pair of opposed walls, said pair of opposed walls being convergent toward one another,

a guide member pivotably mounted in said housing recess about a pivoting axis, said guide member defining a passage therethrough, said passage having a cruciform cross-section adapted to accept a carpenter's pencil in either of two rotated positions, and being shaped and dimensioned to receive the elongated object and to guide the object for longitudinal motion along the object axis between said convergent walls when manually actuated by a user,

a pair of blades each having a cutting edge, each of said blades disposed on a respective one of said opposed walls with its cutting edge extending into the recess at an angle to said object axis, each of said blades also being disposed with its cutting edge facing in the opposite direction from the cutting edge of the other blade, whereby the elongated object ~~can~~may be slid through the passage of the guide member toward the cutting edges of the blades while the elongated object is also being used to pivot said guide member so as to move~~guide so as to move~~ the end of the elongated object past the cutting edges of the blades to remove material from one side of the elongated object as it is pivoted in one direction and from the other side of the object as it is pivoted in the opposite direction to obtain said selected profile.